



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2006

Contact: Nancy Warner  
The Nature Conservancy  
509-665-9595

## Naturalists and neighbors to share stories about McCartney Creek

### *Public invited to enjoy sunsets in Moses Coulee*

The Nature Conservancy of Washington is sponsoring three picnics at the McCartney Creek Preserve in Moses Coulee this summer, where naturalists and long-time residents will share information and stories related to the area's rich natural history and cultural past. Participants will also have an opportunity to explore the site, through short guided walks, and to learn more about the Conservancy's efforts to restore habitat and develop a regional learning center along McCartney Creek.

The picnic series is free and open to the public.

Nancy Warner, North Central Washington Program Director for the Conservancy, is also hoping that local residents will bring any historical photos they may have of the region as well as their own stories, memories, and information about Moses Coulee to share.

"We are constantly learning new things and gaining new insights about this landscape from people who have lived here for much or all of their lives, as well as from those who have a special interest or expertise related to Moses Coulee," says Warner. "We hope these picnics will give us a chance to learn more from each other and to enjoy the coulee country in the quiet of the evening."

Evening picnics are scheduled from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, August 17, Saturday, August 26 and Wednesday, September 13.

Naturalists who will be on site to share stories related to their work will include WSU bat researcher Kara McClanahan on August 17, local geologist Charlie Mason on August 26, and Wenatchee Valley College field ornithologist Dan Stephens on September 13.

Participants are asked to bring their own picnic and lawn chair. To RSVP and get more information on the series, e-mail ([aamiller@tnc.org](mailto:aamiller@tnc.org)) or call the North Central Washington office at 665-9737. Space is limited.

The Nature Conservancy is a private, international, non-profit organization that preserves plants, animals and natural communities representing the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. On the Web at [nature.org](http://nature.org).

###